

More on Kurt's 'B' Perfin

Paul Mistretta (LM#111)

CUMMINS' Initial Machine
Manufactured by
Cummins Perforator Co.
For
J. B Mast Co.
New York

Cast into the Machine on other side J. B. Mast Co.

Portland, Oregon Feb. 13, 1986

Dear Paul:

I recently came across this Perforating machine. It does the complete alphabet as punched. It is larger than allowed by the postal regulations but was interesting so I acquired it. The unit came without a base but as shown in the picture I have put it on a new base so that it will operate better. The unit is 10" high and 15" long. The handle in front turns the unit so that you can punch what you like. I thought it was interesting and so the note.

Yours truly



Those of you who knew Ed Haack, know that he was extremely active in creating and using personal perfins. Ed also found at least this Cummins machine – and used it on a limited basis. This letter from Ed (the bottom of which was blank and over which I am now typing) came (almost) immediately to mind when I saw Kurt's letter 'B' perfin.

Originally on an 8.5 x 11 inch sheet of paper, this reproduction has been cropped at the bottom and slightly shrunk to fit the printed page. However, the information which I wanted to show – the shape of the B and the orientation of the pins – is unaffected by this slight shrinkage.

It appears to me that the 'B' which Kurt has shared is from a Cummins machine – and clearly (due to pin and pattern size) from one designed for a use other than that of perforating stamps.

In Color

To complete the picture of why I suspect a Cummins machine, Ed had punched three additional letters at the bottom left of the page. The 'c' in the set reproduced below is of particular interest since it suggests that the height of letters could also be somewhat manipulated on this machine.

L m c

The patterns here and on Kurt's stamp are illegal size (as noted above – both as to pin size and also to pattern size).

All this having been said, I show below the envelope in which the letter was delivered – and the punches in the four stamps used to frank it. Recognizing that these were 'favor' punches, I have not submitted them for inclusion in the US Catalog. I really don't think they belong except maybe in a new 'favor' listing.

One last detail – the picture of the perforator which Ed mentions. It is a Polaroid and I was unable to enhance it so that it would reproduce well. Sorry.

